



U.S. Department of Justice

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EVENT: Guilty Plea

Defendant: Leo Joseph Rudolph

**MACOMB COUNTY MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CHILD PORNOGRAPHY
MANUFACTURE AND DISTRIBUTION IN FEDERAL COURT**

Stephen J. Murphy, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, announced that Leo Joseph Rudolph, 44 of Ray Township, Michigan pleaded guilty today in Federal District Court to manufacture of child pornography, child pornography transportation, child pornography receipt, and one count of child pornography possession. Rudolph pleaded guilty before the Honorable David M. Lawson and faces a minimum of 15 years in prison and a maximum of 30 years.

From January until May 2007, Rudolph, used, enticed and otherwise coerced the 9-year-old daughter of his then girlfriend to engage in sexual acts with him which were photographed and or videotaped by him. Some of these images were later distributed on the Internet. At the time of his arrest, Rudolph was found in possession of well in excess of 600 images of child pornography, which depicted real children, including the victim, engaged in explicit sexual conduct. Rudolph had downloaded much of his collection from child pornographic images and/or videos from the Internet.

United States Attorney Stephen Murphy said:

“This case involves not only manufacture of child pornography, but also repeated acts of child molestation, that were then photographed and posted on the Internet. We should all recognize that the child victim is re-injured every time the images of the abuse of that child are transmitted on the Internet or viewed by a perpetrator. I congratulate the hardworking agents from the DHS-ICE computer crimes and child exploitation unit. Their dedication of time and skill necessary to work to reveal and apprehend these predators has been most successful.”

Murphy commended the work of the DHS-ICE and Special Agents Mark Langenderfer and Daniel Ben-Meir as well as the work of ICE agents in Oregon who originally located the images, as demonstrating professionalism and dedication in their aggressive and thorough investigation of these cases.

“All children have an absolute right to grow up free from the fear of sexual exploitation, and they should never have to be afraid of those who are supposed to protect,” said Brian M. Moskowitz, Special Agent in Charge of the ICE Office of Investigations in Detroit. “ICE will not cease in its relentless pursuit of those who abuse our kids regardless of whether that abuse is physical in nature or if it’s accomplished through the exploitation of their captured images.”

Assistant United States Attorneys John O’Brien and Jeanine Jones are prosecuting case for the United States.